



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

A  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO.    |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 10/770,508  | 02/04/2004  | Hiroshi Sogabe       | P24877              | 1761                |
| 7055  | 7590        | 03/07/2006           | EXAMINER            |                     |
| GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.<br>1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE<br>RESTON, VA 20191 |             |                      |                     | LOCKETT, KIMBERLY R |
|   |             | ART UNIT             |                     | PAPER NUMBER        |
|   |             | 2837                 |                     |                     |

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/770,508             | SOGABE, HIROSHI     |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Kim R. Lockett         | 2837                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-6, 9 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 2, 4, and 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 3, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Response to Arguments***

The indicated allowability of claims 3, 9, and 10 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to JP02003150156A. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP02003150156A.

JP02003150156A discloses a thumb pick for a guitar comprising a pick body comprising a base end portion configured to contact a thumb and a protrusion portion integrally extending from the base end portion and configured for picking strings ( see figure 6); a belt body (7) separate from the pick body, which fixes the pick body to the thumb, wherein two end portions of the belt body adjustably connect to the pick body; a curved portion formed at an end of the base portion and configured to contact a side of the thumb; and an engaging portion protruding from the curved portion, an end portion of the belt body adjustably connecting to the engaging portion (see figures 4 and 6).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newman in view of Brundage.

Newman discloses the use of a thumb pick for a guitar comprising a pick body comprising a base end portion configured for contacting the thumb, a belt body(10) which fixes the pick body to the thumb and a hook (185) protruding from one end of the base end portion that detachably connects the belt body to the pick body. The belt body as disclosed by Newman is formed separately from the pick body (see figure 1).

Newman does not disclose a plurality of slits in the belt body.

Brundage discloses the use of a belt for a pick body with a plurality of slits for engaging purposes.

It would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hook as disclosed by Newman to with the slited belt body as disclosed by Brundage in order to provide a means of attaching and detaching a pick.

5. Claims 2, 4, and 6 are allowed
6. Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO 2800 Fax Center at 703-872-9306.

For assistance in **Patent procedure, fees or general Patent questions** calls should be directed to the **Patents Assistance Center (PAC)** whose telephone number is **800-786-9199**. Assistance is also available on the Internet at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).

Any inquiry concerning **this communication or earlier communications from the examiner** should be directed to **Kim Lockett** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-7615, after 2/3/04 my new number will be (571) 272-2067**. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on **(571) 272-2107**.



KIMBERLY LOCKETT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER